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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

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DEBORAH DONOGHUE,

Plaintiff,

ECF CASE

-against-

No.

WILLAMETTE VALLEY VINEYARDS,  
INC.,

COMPLAINT

Defendant.

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PLAINTIFF, by DAVID LOPEZ, ESQ., her attorney, complaining of the defendant,  
alleges as follows:

## **JURISDICTION**

1. Jurisdiction over this action is conferred upon the court as a procedural incident to the provisions of Section 16(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, 15 U.S.C. 78p(b) and Section 78aa, and other relevant sections of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. This action is not a collusive one intended to confer jurisdiction of a cause upon a court of the United States over which it would not otherwise have cognizance.

## **VENUE**

2. Upon information and belief, and at all times hereinafter mentioned, Willamette Valley Vinyards, Inc. ("WILLAMETTE") was and is an Oregon corporation with principal offices and domicile at 8800 Enchanted Way, S.E., Turner, Oregon 97392.

3. Upon information and belief, at all times hereinafter mentioned, WILLAMETTE's issued and outstanding shares of common stock were registered under Section 12(g) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and were not exempted securities thereunder. The common stock of WILLAMETTE is traded on the NASDAQ Capital Market Exchange, a National Securities Exchange whose headquarters and facilities are located in the City and State of New York within this district. Some or all of the underlying transactions in Plaintiff's short-swing trading claim were executed on that National Securities Exchange conferring venue upon this court in this suit.

4. Services giving rise to the recovery to be recited herein were rendered in whole or in part within the Southern District of New York conferring venue upon this court in this suit.

5. Plaintiff resides and is domiciled within the district conferring venue upon this court in this suit.

## **THE PARTIES**

6. At all times hereinafter mentioned, the plaintiff, DEBORAH DONOGHUE, was and

is an owner of common stock of the WILLAMETTE.

7. At all times hereinafter mentioned the plaintiff's attorney, DAVID LOPEZ, ESQ., was and is an attorney engaged in the practice of law within this district and before this court.

8. Upon information and belief at all times hereafter mentioned James W. Bernau ("BERNAU") was an "insider" of WILLAMETTE, to wit an officer and a director.

### **OPERATIVE FACTS**

9. BERNAU sold 35,000 shares of WILLAMETTE common stock during May, 2021.

10. BERNAU purchased 4,000 shares of WILLAMETTE common stock during January, 2021 and 947 shares on February 5, 2021, within a period of less than six months of the sale.

11. The aforesaid sales were at prices higher than the aforesaid purchase. BERNAU realized profits in such transactions of \$34,914, more or less, which profits were subject to recovery by WILLAMETTE under the provisions of Section 16(b) of the Act.

12. Upon information and belief BERNAU, while an officer and a director of WILLAMETTE, failed to identify or to pay over such profits to WILLAMETTE except as hereinafter described. WILLAMETTE and BERNAU were ignorant of their respective obligations and rights prior to the intervention of plaintiff and of her counsel.

13. Pursuant to the provisions of Section 16(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 the plaintiff, DEBORAH DONOGHUE, as a stockholder of WILLAMETTE, was authorized and empowered to investigate and to identify all transactions effected in its equity securities by officers, directors and more-than-10% shareholders of WILLAMETTE for the purpose of determining whether any such transactions came within the purview of the statute; for the purpose of requesting the defendant to commence suit against any of its officers, directors or more-than-10% shareholders to seek recovery of any profits which they might have realized from their illegal

retention of profits derived from trading in the defendant's equity securities; and for the purpose of commencing suit against any such officers, directors or more-than-10% shareholders in the name and on behalf of the defendant to recover the short-swing profits realized by any of them in the event the defendant failed or refused to institute such action or failed diligently to prosecute such suit thereafter.

14. Acting under the right and authority granted to her by the statute as aforesaid the plaintiff, DEBORAH DONOGHUE, retained the legal services of DAVID LOPEZ, ESQ. in a derivative capacity on behalf of the defendant herein to investigate the transactions effected in the defendant's securities by its officers, directors and more-than-10% shareholders to determine whether any of such transactions came within the purview of the statute; to determine and calculate the profits, if any, realized by such officers or directors or more-than-10% shareholders and the nature and extent of their statutory liability; to make proper statutory demand on the defendant requesting that it institute suit against any of its officers, directors or more-than-10% shareholders for the recovery of such statutory profits; to furnish the defendant with information as might be necessary or proper for the commencement and prosecution of such action; and to prepare all pleadings, proofs and papers necessary or proper for the commencement of such suit in the event the defendant failed or refused to institute such action or failed diligently to prosecute the same thereafter.

15. The plaintiff, DEBORAH DONOGHUE, agreed to pay a fair and reasonable attorney's fee to DAVID LOPEZ, ESQ. for his legal services rendered, contingent upon any benefits which the defendant might derive therefrom and contingent upon the defendant's reimbursing the plaintiff in the amount of such legal fee so incurred.

16. The law firm of DAVID LOPEZ, ESQ. undertook to perform all legal services



required pursuant to the aforesaid contingent retainer and after making a complete and exhaustive investigation into the law applicable thereto and after ascertaining that the transactions of BERNAU in the defendant's securities had been made in violation of Section 16(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, and after computing and determining that BERNAU had realized profits which were recoverable by WILLAMETTE in accordance with the applicable provisions of the statute aforesaid plaintiff, through her attorney, on May 22, 2021, made written demand, delivered the same day, upon the board of directors of WILLAMETTE that it act to recover all short-swing trading profits of BERNAU through his trading in shares of WILLAMETTE during periods of less than six months while an insider thereof.

17. Solely in response to plaintiff's demands, legal and factual research and analysis, WILLAMETTE collected \$34,914.00 from BERNAU.

18. Plaintiff's counsel has requested of WILLAMETTE a legal fee of \$8,725.00 or roughly 25% of the benefit received by WILLAMETTE through his services. This request is consonant with precedent and practice in the Second Circuit. WILLAMETTE has failed to respond to that request and has claimed that WILLAMETTE's internal investigation revealed the violation and/or that other attorneys provided similar information and services but has not disputed that disgorgement was not obtained until after WILLAMETTE received one or more shareholder demands and refuses to recognize anyone's claim to a right to compensation.

19. Upon information and belief, by reason of its receipt and acceptance of the legal services rendered and communicated to the defendant by plaintiff's attorney, DAVID LOPEZ, ESQ., and the defendant's subsequent actions taken pursuant thereto, the defendant ratified and confirmed the right and authority granted by the statute to plaintiff, DEBORAH DONOGHUE,

and to her attorney, DAVID LOPEZ, ESQ., to render the aforesaid services for and on behalf of the defendant. Upon information and belief, the defendant has knowingly received, accepted and retained the benefits of the services rendered by plaintiff's attorney, DAVID LOPEZ, ESQ., and has realized a gain or benefit in the amount of \$34,914.00 more or less, which it would not otherwise have realized but for such services.

20. Plaintiff, DEBORAH DONOGHUE, is entitled to recover from the defendant a fair and reasonable fee for her attorney for services contingently undertaken and incurred in performing those services and in taking the steps which resulted in the creation of a fund for defendant's benefit in the amount of \$34,914.00. Plaintiff seeks no personal benefit but brings this action to recover the expenses contingently incurred by her in an amount of the reasonable value of the legal services rendered by her attorney, DAVID LOPEZ, ESQ., and solely for the purpose of paying for those services.

21. Upon information and belief, and in view of the amount of benefit conferred upon the defendant, the fair and reasonable value of the legal services rendered by plaintiff's attorney, DAVID LOPEZ, ESQ., in this matter is \$8,725.00 or 25% of the recovery.

**WHEREFORE**, plaintiff demands:

1. A determination and declaration of the fair and reasonable amount due to plaintiff as payment for her legal fees.
2. Judgment against the defendant in the amount of \$8,725.00 inclusive of out-of-pocket disbursements, together with the costs of this action, the latter to include statutory costs, filing fees and service of process.
3. Such other, further and/or different relief as the court may deem just and proper.

Dated: Southampton, New York  
September 1, 2021

Law Offices of DAVID LOPEZ, ESQ.

By:   
DAVID LOPEZ, ESQ. (DL-6779)